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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/876,686	06/07/2001	Minoru Yoshida	12052.43US01	8188
23552	7590	11/19/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			LEE, CHEUKFAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	5

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/876,686

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA, MINORU

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Art Unit

2622

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Claims 1 and 2 are pending. Claim 1 is independent.

2. The drawings are objected to because of the following:

Figs. 7 and 8 should be labeled with – PRIOR ART --. See page 1, line 16, page 2, line 1, and page 3, lines 24 and 25.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,141) in view of Furusawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,903).

Regarding claim 1, Ogura et al. discloses an line image sensor module (Fig. 1) comprising a frame (6), the frame housing the following: a rod-shaped light guide (4) for guiding light emitted from a light-emitting source (7) toward a document through a transparent member (5), a line image sensor having a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements (linear sensor array 1), and a lens array (3) for converging light reflected from the document on the linear image sensor (1). The rod-shaped light guide (4) is directly installed within the frame, i.e., without a light guide casing (col. 4, line 65 – col. 5, line 6).

Ogura et al. differs from the claimed invention in that Ogura et al. does not specifically disclose a reflecting body for reflecting light that is formed on at least a portion of the side of the frame contacting the reflecting side of the of the rod-shaped light guide (4). However, nowhere in the disclosure of Ogura et al. prevents a portion of the frame being provided with a reflecting body either. In Fig. 1 of Ogura et al., the upper surface of the light guide (4) is directly contacting the lower surface of the upper part of the frame (6).

Furusawa et al. discloses forming a reflecting body (white paint) on a side of a casing (5) contacting the reflecting side of a rod-shaped light guide (4) to reflect light in a visible light range (col. 5, line 66 – col. 6, line 17). Though the reflecting body is not formed on the frame containing also the line image sensor and lens array as claimed, the reflecting body is formed on a surface in direct contact with the light guide.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form a reflecting body on the lower surface of the upper portion of the frame (6) of Ogura et al., which lower surface is in direct contact of the light guide (4), in order to increase reflectivity of light as taught by Furusawa et al.

Regarding claim 2, one form of the reflection body of Furusawa et al., the white paint, is understood to be a thin layer of coating film (col. 5, line 66 – col. 6, line 7).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
July 2, 2004



Cheukfan Lee